

Message Text

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22

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MMO-01 SIG-01 INR-07 PM-04 L-03

ACDA-07 IGA-02 /047 W

----- 109024

R 201435Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7835

DOD WASHDC

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 3558

DOD FOR DSAA/ISA (SA)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PN

SUBJECT: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY

JOINT EMBASSY/USMILGROUP MESSAGE

REF: A. STATE 119079; B. PANAMA 2994 (NOTAL)

1. UPON REVIEWING REQUIREMENTS LEVIED REF A, EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY AMBASSADOR JORDEN IN REF B IN RESPONSE TO SUPERCEDED MESSAGE STATE 97277 REMAIN VALID AND RESPONSIVE TO DEPT/DOD INTERESTS IN SUBJECT STUDY. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT STADIS CAPTION BE DELETED FROM MESSAGE REF B, WHICH IS BEING REPEATED TO USCINCSO AND SECDEF.

2. IT REMAINS THE EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT RETENTION OF USMILGROUP PANAMA, IN SUBSTANTIALLY ITS PRESENT FORM AND AUGMENTED AS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED BY THE EMBASSY, IS A VERY HIGH PRIORITY REQUIREMENT IN TERMS OF US INTERESTS IN THE PANAMA CANAL, ITS FUTURE, AND IN THE NEW RELATIONSHIP WHICH WE HOPE AND EXPECT TO BUILD WITH PANAMA UNDER A NEW CANAL TREATY. WE CONTINUE TO SEE NO REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE TO RETENTION OF THE MILGROUP HERE FOR PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENT
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OF THOSE INTERESTS, AS OUTLINED BY THE AMBASSADOR REF B.

REMOVAL OF THE MILGROUP, EVEN IS PART OF A GENERAL,
WORLDWIDE REDUCTION, WOULD BE SO SERIOUS A BLOW TO FUTURE
PROSPECTS FOR OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH PANAMA AS TO
WARRANT IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, OUR SEEKING TO MAKE A SPECIAL
CASE FOR ITS RETENTION EVEN IN THE FACE OF A WORLDWIDE
CUTBACK.

3. COMUSMILGROUP PANAMA CONCURS.
GONZALEZ

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